722-81

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Classification of Serial Publication Trends in Communist Media

FROM:		EXTENSION	NO.		STAT
Chief, Records Management Division Office of Information Services 1236 Ames Building			DATE **17 FEB 1981**		STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)	
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED			
1. Special Assistant, DDS&T 6E45 Headquarters			Frac/ 20 Feb	Hal:	
2.				Attached are Records Management Division's comments concerning the matter involving Trends. These are our best judgements, given the information available. As we discussed, lets get together as suggested in paragraph 3. I will be in touch in a few days.	
3. _____, C/RMD/OIS 1236 Ames Bldg.			✓		STAT
4. C/RSB		8/3/18	✗		
5. Bill					STAT
6. Jon					
7.				To 3: Thanks, [____] your analysis is valid under the circumstances. Re. your para 3, I suggest you and/or your people discuss the problem separately with FBIS and me. Then provide us with your decision/recommendation.	STAT
8.					STAT
9.					
10.					STAT
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					

FORM 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS
1-79

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Classification of Serial Publication

Trends in Communist Media

REFERENCES: A.   OGC 00480 dated 19 January 1981, same subject
              B.   DDS&T-4861-79 dated 20 September 1979, same subject

     1.   The references describe four attributes of the FBIS publication
Trends in Communist Media that have been used as the basis for its national
security classification. Disagreement within DDS&T as to the applicability
of each attribute has resulted in a difference of opinion as to the propriety
of classification. One view is that each issue of the Trends should be
classified Confidential for six months; the other is that no issue warrants
classification.

     2.   As a step toward resolving the matter, the Records Management Division
(RMD), OIS has reviewed each attribute and its comments are provided below:

          a.   Trends information in the aggregate or "in
     seriatim...could reasonably be expected to cause damage to
     the national security," i.e., the "mosaic" effect. (Reference A,
     paragraph 1; reference B, paragraph 9)

               Comment: We recognize this is a valid concept
               but question whether the information in each
               and every issue, when viewed in combination
               with other issues, would always warrant
               classification.

          b.   The Trends information "selection process reveals
     current interests or requirements of the U.S. Government."
     (Reference B, paragraph 5b)

               Comment: We concur if the interests have not
               been officially acknowledged or the requirements
               would tend to reveal such interests.

          c.   Trends information may concern sensitive foreign relations
     topics "under debate where international views may influence the
     arguments." (Reference B, paragraph 5e)

               Comment: We question whether it can be demonstrated
               that the communist media information in Trends
               influences such debate. Would this not depend upon
               the weight that policymakers attach to information
               from this source in the context of other information
               at their disposal?

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

     d. <u>Trends</u> information "could be construed as official U.S. Government analysis and a foreign government...may receive a distorted signal about official U.S. Government thinking." (Reference B, paragraph 7)

> <u>Comment</u>: We concur, but question whether this <u>basis</u> for classification is applicable to every issue of the <u>Trends</u>.

     3. In summary, the references indicate that, at the minimum, national security classification of <u>Trends</u> is sometimes warranted. However, RMD is not in a position to judge whether all issues should be classified. To do this, it may be necessary to review a block of <u>Trends</u> publications covering a six to eight month period. If RMD is asked to undertake such a review, it would be helpful if individuals representing the opposing opinions in DDS&T would present their views for and against the classification of each issue.